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JUL 15 2005

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of
Mohamed K. Diab, et al.
Application No.: 09/144,897
Filed: September 1, 1998
For: Signal Processing Apparatus
Attorney Docket No. MASIMO.7CP1C4

:
: DECISION ON PETITION
: UNDER 37 CFR 1.183
: SEEKING WAIVER OF
: REQUIREMENTS UNDER
: 37 CFR 1.98 and 1.52

This is a response to a petition under 37 CFR 1.183 mailed on June 14, 2005, concurrently with an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) in the above referenced application. The § 1.183 petition requests waiver of the rules for Information Disclosure Statements under 37 CFR 1.98. The petition under 37 CFR 1.183, is requesting relief from the § 1.98 and § 1.52 provisions which require filing a paper copy of each reference cited in an IDS. The request for waiver is made in view of the need to file the same IDS copies in multiple applications relating to different aspects of a particular invention. A paper copy of the references was filed in application no. 10/779,033 on June 2, 2005.

The petition under 37 CFR 1.183 requesting relief to file a single paper copy of IDS references is **GRANTED** to the extent set forth below.

The instant application filed under 35 U.S.C. 111 is one of 12 U.S. applications related to patent families in litigation. The references cited in the IDS are references arising from the litigation.

Applicants' submission of an IDS is taken as an attempt to comply with 37 CFR 1.56(b)(1) that requires disclosure to the Office of information material to patentability, which includes information that "establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim..." Such disclosure can be made by an IDS in the manner prescribed by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.

37 CFR 1.98 requires that any IDS provide a copy of all patents, publications or other information submitted under 37 CFR 1.97 for consideration by the Office. All papers filed in an application are required to be in paper by 37 CFR 1.52(a) unless they are under filed under some other provision of the rules or a waiver of the rules. 37 CFR 1.97 notes that information disclosure statements are considered in regard to the application in which they are filed. See also MPEP § 609 (8th Ed. Rev. 2, May 2004), pages 600-122 and 600-123.

Applicants note that the instant application is one of 12 applications that are part of patent families or claim benefit of a parent patent in the same litigation.

Rather than be required to submit, via a paper copy, five boxes of foreign patent and non-patent literature references in each of 12 applications, Applicants seek to have:

(1) The earlier filed single paper copy in application no. 10/779,033 of each IDS citation fulfill the requirement for a paper copy in all 12 applications;

(2) One application (application no. 10/779,033) identified as a "holding" application which would contain one complete set of paper copies of references; the paper copies of the references to be submitted in only the "holding" application; and

(3) The other related pending U.S. applications (the "bulk filing" applications), be exempt from requiring a separately filed paper set of the references; the bulk filing applications will contain other information, e.g., a copy of the decision on petition permitting such procedure, and a copy of the Form 1449 (or equivalent). The Office may choose at its option to provide electronic access or provide a copy of each reference in the "bulk filing" applications.

A review of Office records indicates that the instant application and the '033 application are both Image File Wrapper (IFW) applications. Also, since the '033 application has been published all the copies of the references in IFW are readily available to the public. Accordingly, the Office can provide an image copy of all of the IDS references from the holding application to the instant application.

Applicants' set of petitions appears to contain typographical errors noted below; while none of these errors affect the merit of any of the petitions, Applicants are requested to correct their records so as to prevent further confusion. First, the petition for application no. 09/111,604 is erroneously captioned as "09/110,604." Additionally, each petition incorrectly cites application no. 10/677,050 as "10/667,050" and incorrectly cites application no. 11/003,231 as "11/003,321."

Decision: 37 CFR 1.183 provides relief for extraordinary situations, when justice requires suspension of any requirement of the regulations which is not a requirement of the statutes. The instant petition urges that not only would applicants be spared the necessity of submitting duplicative paper copies of foreign patent and non-patent literature references in 12 applications, but also the Office would benefit from not having to handle and store the duplicative sets of

copies. While there may be some negative effects from the Office's point of view in terms of making the copies available in different applications from one paper copy, on balance, there is seen to be sufficient benefit to justify waiver in this instance for all the applications filed.

Accordingly, the petition under 37 CFR 1.183 is granted to the extent indicated and under the terms and conditions as are set forth below. Once past the initial IDS submission, the petition does not propose the waiver to apply to updates and no waiver is granted for updates of the IDS.

The § 1.98(a)(2) requirement for (the submission of) a copy of each foreign patent and non-patent literature IDS citation in a bulk filing application will be waived in the bulk filing applications only for non-patent literature and foreign patents provided that the following five conditions are complied with:

- 1) One paper copy of each foreign patent and non-patent literature IDS citation has been submitted to the Office in the concurrently filed IDS in the holding application.
- 2) The information cited in each of the bulk filing applications is or has also been cited in the holding application.

Note: Applicants are not required to cite in each bulk filing application every item of information that is cited in the holding application. Items should be cited in each bulk filing application on the basis of relevancy and materiality to the particular claims in the bulk filing application and what each piece of information teaches.

Also note: A waiver is not granted (for the requirement to supply a paper copy of an IDS citation in another bulk filing application) where the citation is not, or has not been, made in the holding application.

- 3) Explanatory information related to a particular citation, such as the concise explanation of a foreign language reference under § 1.98(a)(2), if submitted in the holding application, must also be supplied in each bulk filing application where the citation is made.
- 4) The Office accepts and specifically reserves the right to terminate the waiver grant in regard to § 1.98(a)(2) without provision of reasons. In such event, a two month period will be given where paper copies would have to be supplied in all applications where new citations are made. Should a termination of the waiver be desired by the Office, the Office will provide written notice to the correspondence address of record. Termination by applicants may be by returning to compliance with § 1.98(a)(2) without formal notice thereof and no transition/continuing period after termination is required.
- 5) There will be no waiver of any aspects of 37 CFR 1.97 in any application after allowance or final rejection of that application.

Any correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Mail Stop Petition
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

By FAX: (571) 273-8300
 Attn: Office Patent Legal Administration/Samuel Broda

Telephone inquiries should be directed to Samuel Broda at (571) 272-7711.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samuel Broda for". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature is a horizontal line.

Robert J. Spar
Director
Office of Patent Legal Administration
Office of the Deputy Commissioner
for Patent Examination Policy